



7 August 2005



## Virtual Family Readiness Groups

1. To better support our Soldiers and their families, USAREUR will soon begin fielding virtual family readiness groups (vFRGs) in the European theater. When fielding vFRGs, the highest priority will be given to deploying units. Fielding for other units will begin in early fiscal year 2006.
2. A vFRG is more than just a website; it is an innovative system of websites that incorporates all major components of an FRG in a virtual context. This web system—
  - Includes real-time communication features and enables units and FRGs to maintain different types of data and reports.
  - Allows parent units to meet the needs of geographically dispersed units and families across the Army, including the families of augmentees in CONUS.
  - Provides a means for families to establish friendships and bonds with other families across the Army.
  - May be tailored to meet the needs of the unit and to display policy set by the unit commander.
  - Duplicates what routinely occurs when someone goes to a unit orderly room for help, or when a commander brings unit members together for information update briefings or townhall meetings.
  - Helps prevent speculation and rumors by providing official unit information to families. The information posted on vFRGs comes directly from the unit, and families can depend on its being timely, accurate, and relevant.
3. The USAREUR G1 is working to obtain the administrative information that units will need to get their portals up and running. Key actions include portal setup as well as a site review and authorization by the unit commander to release a portal for the unit vFRG. In addition, 2-day on-site training sessions will soon be conducted for Army in Europe communities and key unit vFRG personnel (for example, the unit commander or staff representative, FRG leader, family readiness liaison, family readiness support assistant, rear detachment commander). When these actions are complete, Soldiers and their families can begin registering to become members of their unit vFRG.

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4. More information on vFRGs is available at <http://www.armyfrg.org>. I strongly encourage leaders to take advantage of this web system. During these times of high OPTEMPO, vFRGs will not only enable us to provide better support to families based in Europe, vFRGs will help us support family members all over the world. By providing this increased level of support for our Soldiers and their families, vFRGs will help us continue to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.



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General, US Army  
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